

RECOGNIZING IBEC CREATIVE

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, our Nation has long recognized that small businesses are the true innovators in our economy. Indeed, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration, our Nation's 27 million small firms generate a majority of the innovation coming from American businesses and produce 13 times more patents per employee than their larger counterparts. But to continue this trend, we need a new, younger generation of entrepreneurs to rise to the forefront and open their own small businesses. That is why I am proud to rise today to recognize the entrepreneurial spirit and ingenuity of a young woman from my home State of Maine whose graphic and Web design company is providing clients with, in her words, "fresh ideas that grow results."

iBec Creative was founded in 2006 by entrepreneur Becky Stockbridge. As a senior at the University of Southern Maine, Ms. Stockbridge wrote a business plan to start a Web and graphic design business for medical professionals. She realized that this critical segment of our economy was in desperate need of innovative and creative ways to promote their expertise, including through brochures, logos, and informational Web sites. With a \$4,200 grant from the Libra Future Fund, a Maine-based nonprofit organization that supports young entrepreneurs, as well as free office space awarded by the Maine Center for Enterprise Development, she embarked upon her fledgling entrepreneurial career. To overcome a slow start, Ms. Stockbridge soon began designing Web sites and graphic designs for small businesses in other fields and by seizing upon these additional opportunities, she greatly broadened her client base.

In her continued efforts to present clients with cutting-edge technology, Ms. Stockbridge's innovative assortment of development, design, and monitoring services have turned iBec Creative into a well-respected five-person small company with an expected \$350,000 in revenue for 2009. iBec currently specializes in providing a wide range of marketing and consulting services to its clients, such as Web design and search engine optimization, SEO, consulting, branding, internet marketing, traditional marketing, and project management. Additionally, iBec Creative utilizes emerging media to promote its clients various brands.

Ms. Stockbridge's creativity, vigor, and entrepreneurial commitment were recently recognized by BusinessWeek as she was named a 2009 finalist in the America's Best Young Entrepreneurs competition. She is the only person nominated from my home State of Maine and the first finalist from Maine since the contest began 5 years ago. Ms. Stockbridge is competing against 24 other young entrepreneurs from around the Nation in this unique online challenge, and I look forward to hearing about her successful outcome at the end of the competition.

iBec Creative is a remarkable small business whose story demonstrates how community involvement and encouragement can help entrepreneurs of all ages realize their aspirations and dreams. I commend Becky Stockbridge for her innovation and determination and wish Ms. Stockbridge and everyone at iBec Creative the best of luck with their burgeoning business.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2489. An act to authorize a national cooperative geospatial imagery program through the United States Geological Survey to promote use of remote sensing data.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 832. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; it agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Messrs. DICKS, MORAN of Virginia, MOLLOHAN, CHANDLER, HINCHEY, OLVER, PASTOR, PRICE of North Carolina, OBEY, SIMPSON, CALVERT, LATOURETTE, COLE, and LEWIS of California as managers of the conference on the part of the House.

At 11:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1929. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution, which had previously been signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 1209. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861, America's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, to honor the American military men and women who have been recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to promote awareness of what the Medal of Honor represents and how ordinary Americans, through courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism, can challenge fate and change the course of history.

H.J. Res. 26. A joint resolution proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

At 6:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3632. An act to provide improvements for the operations of the Federal courts, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1694. An act to allow the funding for the interoperable emergency communications grant program established under the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 to remain available until expended through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 177. Concurrent resolution raising the awareness of the need for crime prevention in communities across the country and expressing support for designation of October 1, 2009, through October 3, 2009, as "Celebrate Safe Communities" Week, and October as "Crime Prevention Month".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3632. An act to provide improvements for the operations of the Federal courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 177. Concurrent resolution raising the awareness of the need for crime prevention in communities across the country and expressing support for designation of October 1, 2009, through October 3, 2009, as "Celebrate Safe Communities" Week, and October as "Crime Prevention Month"; to the committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 3617. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor